

STEVE KNIGHT  
25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOUSE ARMED  
SERVICES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0525**

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KNIGHT.HOUSE.GOV

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Dent  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies  
HVC-227, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dent and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

State Veterans Homes serve a vital role in providing our nation's aging veterans with much needed geriatric and extended care services. Originally formed after the Civil War to give shelter to disabled and homeless veterans, these homes have served veterans in our communities for well over one hundred years. Our veterans sacrifice dearly for us, and we must in turn ensure they receive proper medical care. For Fiscal Year 2018, we strongly urge you to support an increase in funding to \$300 million for the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program, which provides much needed funding to our nation's State Veterans Homes.

The VA's State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program is a key provider of resources for the ongoing maintenance of our existing State Veterans Homes. Currently, there are 8 State Veterans Homes in California alone with a capacity to serve extended care to over 3,000 veterans. Medal of Honor recipients, Ex-POW's, and wartime veterans are given top priority for admittance into these State Veterans Homes. For elderly veterans in California and across the country, State Veterans Homes protect their dignity, health, and quality of life in their later years. There is, however, a backlog of \$640 million in deferred maintenance for State Veterans Homes to remain operational. The veterans who are cared for in these older facilities deserve to receive treatment in a safe and suitable environment that meets modern medical-care standards.

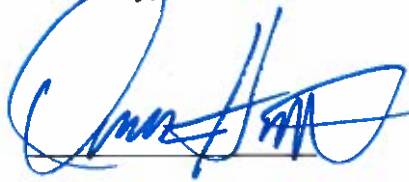
The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018 proposes a 6 percent increase to the

VA's budget. As you consider authorizing appropriations for VA programs for Fiscal Year 2018, we request your support for our State Veterans Homes by providing an increase in funding for the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program to \$300 million.

Sincerely,

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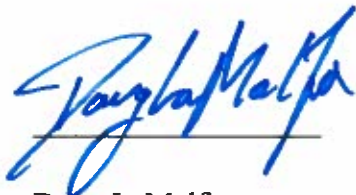
Steve Knight  
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter", written over a horizontal line.

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Paul Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Cook  
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Doug LaMalfa", written over a horizontal line.

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress